



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 81

Doric Dames, Inc.

Records, 1966-1996: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Doric Dames, Inc.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 81

Extent: 4 boxes (2 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Doric Dames, Inc. Records. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: This collection was a gift of Doric Dames, Inc. in honor of its 25th anniversary on May 5, 1994.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Mary Bicknell, 1996 and revised, July, 1998; updated by Abigail Cramer, July, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents the activities of Doric Dames, Inc. in its efforts to research the history of the Massachusetts State House and acquaint the general public with the building's history and with the legislative process.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes the Doric Dames, Inc. articles of organization, bylaws, meeting minutes and treasurer's reports, annual reports, nominating committee reports, and correspondence, as well as numerous invitations and programs for special events (including anniversary celebrations) and exhibitions. The collection also includes files on special projects, historical information, and

copies of the newsletter, *The Doric Column*. *The Doric Column* is a particularly fruitful source of information about the Doric Dames. Finally, the collection contains press releases, news clippings and many photographs of the Doric Dames and their activities.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Established in 1969 by Mrs. Francis Sargent, the purpose of Doric Dames, Inc. is to research the history of the State House and, with volunteer tour guides, acquaint the general public with the building's history and the legislative process. Membership in the Doric Dames, Inc. falls into two categories: active and associate. Active membership requires certain duties spelled out by the Board of Directors and allows such members a vote, while associate members are contributors to the corporation and do not have a vote. The Board of Directors has nineteen members, one of whom has historically been the wife of the current governor. Six directors are elected annually for a three-year term, with the exception of the governor's wife. The directors elect their officers for a one-year term. The First Lady is President of the Doric Dames, and the Executive Vice President, an elected position, is presiding officer of the Board of Directors.

The Doric Dames work closely with the Tours Division of the Secretary of State's Office. Members serve as guides, giving tours of approximately one hour to visitors and student groups. During school vacations and during the summer the Doric Dames' staff is augmented by trained students. In addition to their guide duties, members of the Doric Dames, Inc. research and compile information about various aspects of Massachusetts and State House history including the initial research for the restoration of the Senate Reception Room and information about the restoration of the Civil War flags.

In the mid-1980s, the Doric Dames published a cookbook, Bulfinch's Boston Faire. The recipes came from current and historical political figures in both the Massachusetts and federal governments. Since that time, the cookbook has been a fundraising and public relations success. Between 1975 and 1994, the Executive Board of the Doric Dames served as the Trustees of the Bulfinch Restoration Foundation, a trust set up in 1964 to restore and maintain the Bulfinch portion of the State House and educate the public about it. The funds for this foundation were raised primarily from the sale of the Sinclair Hitchings and Catherine Farlow book on the State House and fundraising efforts of the Doric Dames.

According to the Secretary of State's website, "in the spirit of diversity and the genuine desire to be more inclusive, a movement was launched... to reshape the organization and make it more welcoming and appealing to men as well as women." The organization changed its name from "Doric Dames" to "Doric Docents" at that time.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two series as follows:

Series I. Administrative Materials, 1966-1996

Series II. Photographs, 1969-1995

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Doric Dames, Inc., May 5, 1994. A few items in the collection are dated 1996 and may be subsequent additions.

Accruals

Accruals are expected; see unprocessed accessions Z11-04 (1 box) and Z11-07 (1 box).

Series Description and Container List

Series I: Administrative Materials, 1966-1996

Scope and Content

This series includes annual meeting minutes, annual reports, the articles of organization, bylaws, correspondence, and information about Bulfinch's Boston Faire.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Address Lists	undated, 1979, 1981
1	2	Annual Meeting Minutes	1982-1995
1	3	Annual Meeting Reservation List	1976
1	4	Annual Report: Program for College Students	1977
1	5	Annual Report: Secretary	1977-1995
1	6	Annual Reports: Associate Members and Guides	1993, 1995
1	7	Articles of Organization	1969
1	8	Awards	1976-1979, 1987
1	9-11	Board of Directors: Monthly Meeting Minutes (3 folders)	1975-1996
1	12	Bulfinch Restoration Foundation	1964-1994
1	13	Bylaws	1972-1982
1	14	Cookbook Information	[1985]-1995
4	n/a	Cookbooks	1985, 1993
1	15	Correspondence	1971-1995
1	16	Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1994
1	17	Fifteenth "Birthday" Celebration	1984
1	18	Flag of Brazil, Port of Call Fashion Show	1982
1	19	<i>Guides' Gazette</i>	1976-1979, 1993, 1994
1	20	History	undated
1	21	Hours Contributed by Members	1996
1	22	Information for Children	undated, 1977
1	23	Invitations and Programs: Annual Meetings	1972-1994
1	24	Invitations and Programs, "Birthday" Celebrations	1979-1994

1	25	Invitations and Programs: Meetings, Exhibits and Special Events	undated, 1971-1995
1	26	Junior Guides	1980
1	27	Massachusetts Commonwealth Seals	1994-1995
2	28	Membership Directory	1972, 1975, 1987, 1993, 1991, 1994-1995
2	29	Miscellaneous historical information	undated, 1990-1995
2	30-35	Newsletter: <i>The Doric Column</i>	1971-1998
2	36	Newspaper Clippings - Historical Information	undated
2	37	Nominating Committee Reports	1980-1990
4	n/a	Proclamations	1974, 1994
2	38	Re-tooling and Orientation	1993
2	39	State House History Brochures	undated, 1971, 1973
2	40	State House Keys and Tags, Report and Brochure	1980-1981
2	41	State House Statues, Proposal and Estimate (fragment)	undated
2	42	State House Tour Information	undated, 1977, 1995-1996
2	43	Tax Exempt Certificate	1989
2	44	Tenth Anniversary	1979
2	45	Tours of Historic Sites (includes newspaper clippings)	1966-1994
2	46	Treasurer's Reports	undated, 1977-1994
2	47	Twentieth Anniversary Celebration	1989
2	48	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration	May, 1994
3	49	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration	October 28, 1994

3	50	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration, Financial Records	1993-1994
3	51	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration Party Favor	May 6, 1994
3	52	Press Releases	1978-1979

Series II: Photographs, 1969-1995

Scope and Content

This series includes photographs of the Doric Dames, Inc. staff, volunteers, and events.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	53	Unidentified	undated
3	54	Unidentified	1969-1975
3	55	Students	1970s
3	56	Antioquia, Columbia Reception	January 15, 1973
3	57	First Ladies on Parade	October 17, 1974
3	58	Unidentified	1975-1979
3	59	Annual Meeting	1979
3	60	Tenth "Birthday" Party	1979
3	61	Annual Meeting	1980
3	62	Unidentified	1980-1983
3	63	Annual Meeting	1981
3	64	Keys and Tags	1981
3	65	Annual Meeting	1983
3	66	Annual Meeting	1984

3	67	Fifteenth "Birthday" Party	1984
3	68	Annual Meetings	1985-1986
3	69	Cookbook Publication Celebration	1985
3	70	Unidentified	1986-1992
3	71	Annual Meeting	1987
3	72	Unidentified	1990
3	73	Tea Party for Susan Roosevelt Weld	March 15, 1991
3	74	Annual Meeting	1993
3	75	Holiday Party	1993
3	76	Unidentified	1993-1995
3	77	Annual Meeting	1994
3	78	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration	May 6, 1994
3	79	Twenty-fifth "Birthday" Celebration	October 28, 1994
3	80	Holiday Party	1994
3	81	Holiday Party	1995
3	82	Annual Meeting	1995